REPLY UNDER

37 C.F.R. § 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

EXAMINING GROUP 3663

PATENT

4450-0370P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Sridhar Balakrisnan et al.

Conf.:

3540

Appl. No.:

09/677,344

Group:

3663

Filed:

October 2, 2000

Examiner AUNNINGHAM

For:

THREE STAGE OPTICAL AMPLIFIER HAVING

FLAT SPECTRAL GAIN

REPLY AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 30, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 30, 2003 the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This reply includes Remarks.